

Amended
8-31-99

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 15-20 and 23 as follows:

15. (Amended) In a method for the laundering of soiled garments in which the soiled garments are washed in an aqueous media containing a detergent and a bleaching agent, the improvement comprises using as the bleaching agent [the solution of Claim 13] a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution prepared by the following steps:

a. mixing an aqueous solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having from about 5 percent to about 70 percent by weight available halogen as chlorine with a water soluble bromide ion source;

b. allowing the bromide ion source and the alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite to react to form a 0.5 to 70 percent by weight aqueous solution of unstabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite;

c. adding to the unstabilized solution of alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal sulfamate, carbonic acids, hydrogen cyanide, carboxylic acids, amino acids, sulfuric acids, phosphoric acids and boric acids; and,

d. recovering a stabilized aqueous alkali or alkaline earth metal hypobromite solution;

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